American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Correspondence,
January 8, 1928-February 13, 1928

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151 Kuan Hsi Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
January 8, 1928.

My Precious Loved Ones!

Now for an interrupted visit — at least I hope to be able to just talk awhile — it's later than I expected as Mr. Eames & I were just discussing why Ps. 8. referred to Christ & dug out all the commentaries & Dr. Gray's — were satisfied so now I can write. It came out of the Bible class discussion on Hebrews & Mr. Taylor quoting an old Hebrew writer saying the Hebrews before Christ considered that as one of the strong prophecies. We had Heb 2. to discuss today. — Then one of the Baptist men preached on Gen 24. — that sweet story of the servant going to get Isaac a bride. He preached very helpfully too. I love that story anyway. "I being in the way the Lord led me" — always brings me lessons. How we must keep close in touch & willing — to hear His leading & be in His way!

2) Now thanks to my precious diary I can go back + pick up the thread of the days since I wrote last. Stella Walter picked it up the other day + remarked she'd never seen a more beautiful one — mumsie mine! It is lovely!

I believe I wrote before the Lan's feast they invited four or five of us foreigners! They are very wealthy family, one son studied in America 3 yrs. + cousin's there now — They have a big family 8 children — have nice big rooms + stoves in them. All is so clean + nice. Girls older ones both been to University (gov't) in Tsinan, we went, first they passed flower tea + candy + nuts — then we were taken in another room + the feast was spread. Most the same food I told you of before — rice in bowls — then besides in dishes all on the table sea slugs, this is a common feast food — rather fatty tasting, otherwise not especially good, — chicken, + the gizzards cut fine + fried in deep hot fat, fish dipped in batter + fried in hot fat — (not a bone in it + oh so good) — numberless

31 dishes of rice vegetables + tasty things - I really can't recall all of them - didn't write this time. They continually put little choice bits on our plates - eat we surely did!! They ~~they~~ had ^huge plates^ oranges, bananas, apples, candy, the insides of apricot seeds, + candy - coffee (I think either a concession to us or a foreign acquired taste) at the end had steaming hot towels passed to each one to wash face + hands. They were so polite + gracious, to leave it there. While I'm on this subject I'll finish it. Monday (for N.Y.'s) we went to a Chinese Inn + ordered Chinese food. It wasn't extra - only fish cooked with a sweet sauce which was luscious! This last Friday Miss Chiao another of the committee asked us to her home. She, mother + sister-in-law live there together - also in nice rooms. They had such a nice feast too - our towels here were wrung out of scented hot

4, They had just bought a new piano and we had fun singing + playing after the feast. This girl has been to Nanking university - her brother has a high official position in foreign office in Peking + another one is to be a representative to the Jerusalem conference. The mother was so lovely - had such a sweet face. They thanked me properly for playing for them! Imagine - my music! They were very sweet to ask us! I'd like to live in that home - of course they don't know it tho - but am not sure at all. Don't let my continual remarks on this line disturb you - I can't go for a while. Mr. + Mrs. Eames invited me to go on with them to the Rock that's where they live in summer - moving in June - but I'm not ready to say - besides it doesn't appeal to me to go from June till Sept. + live isolated from Chinese - any but servants hardly seems right from the language point of view. Just pray about it - that all will work out for best. I know it will but I don't want to insist

5] them or be unwise either nor do I wish to deliberately isolate myself from Chinese contacts.

Last Sat. had a sewing woman - a christian who needed the work & she kept me busy keeping her busy she is so speedy - She has me pretty well mended up now - Sunday there was a big rain & very small Chinese attendance at church. They simply haven't clothes for it - no rubbers, or raincoats & many have just the one suit & rain spoils shoes - so it is a real problem - for them to go out in rain. Someone remarked that nothing kept Chinese in like rain! Mr. Wang, the minister, spoke with such fire & enthusiasm about the work they'd been doing in relief work & described the conditions with such vividness I wished more could have heard him. In the afternoon there was a christening service here - The Evans baby - Terry's (of Tehaufu) little girl! Mr. Thompson of Tehaufu did it. A few friends came to witness it. & Mrs. B. sang "By cool Siloam's shady rill"

6] Among the group were Miss Hand
of Tehoufu (that's nearest station
to Yehsien) & with her her mother.
I was talking to them & at first
had the impression Mrs. H. had
lived in China years - but she's
come to be with her daughters &
been here only about 2 yrs. It
gave me such a thrill!! She has
been with her other daughter in
the South most of the time. Said
she'd evacuated 12 times in 12 mo.
lived in Formosa part of the
time - hadn't had a dull
minute since she came & never
before such an interesting time!
She's surely a good sport to enjoy
it all! Said she studied with
a teacher so she can get around
by herself & loves it. It just
made ~~that~~ little treasured hope
of your coming someday, Mumsie
mine just blaze right up & I
have been thinking of it so
much. Just now I guess it is
not wise since I'm not settled
any place, and living costs
quite a lot this way. But
you be thinking about it

7] + saving your pennies and get all prepared to come sometime & prepared in mind I mean - as I remember certain remarks about not liking the water etc. Say didn't Mrs. Norman say they'd come. She or Mrs. Bell her friend, might. It would be easy to get a companion - thru the Board with some returning missionary: Catherine Sinkham is home this year - by the way, have you seen her? Might come with her. She comes to North China. In a way while I'm in Tsingtao would be better - because of the foreign surroundings + more foreign people, stores etc - would be less lonely than a small interior place like Jihsien where I'd be in country for weeks maybe - but I'm not so sure in these unsettled times it would be best. If you could come for the summer, that's safe I suppose as far as anyone knows - but great expense - well it is fun to dream over anyway. So many times since I've thought how mother would enjoy this!

8] Monday evening we were invited
to the Coonradt's for dinner — all
we unmarrieds — "single ladies"
we get dubbed out here — much
to the disgust of one of the girls
who says she'd rather be called a
spinster but not me! The Coonradts
go home in spring on furlough. We
had a very nice time. It was nice
of them to ask us. I'm thinking
over my vacation & my letter to
you telling of the whirl of dinners
I thought you'd think it didn't
sound much like "privations
in China" — nor does it. Of course
this year more foreigners (seems so
funny to call myself a foreigner
but in ah so many ways it's true)
than before, men home at Christmas
other times in country etc — & all
try to get all the social obligations
of year off. It is nice too to ~~go~~ —
That kind of social life keeps
us normal & we always learn
from those we meet. As a
whole I think the missionary
group is one of finest group I've ever
had contacts with. So many
interesting folks —

9] I expect now our interest will be fiercer as we're back in the harness again. I should say so! Tues. a.m. went to school to find tests (intelligence tests in order to reclassify us) the program of the week. Tues. we were given twenty-five words - prep., conjunctions etc. - to use in sentences. [illegible] then to put them in Chinese sentences. Then a paper of 150 Chinese characters very similar (maybe difference of one or two strokes of pen) which we must quickly recognize & write out - not allowed to go back second time & time limit counted. 20 min. maximum. Then Wed. had four tests - one translate into Chinese 25 sentences with different tenses of the verb - (2) translate 60 Chinese sentences into English getting fine shades of meaning - 3) go in a room with teachers each posted to grade a certain part - maybe tones, another rhythm another recognition of character & one to sum it all up. (4) a

10] groups of 5 asked questions & graded us on conversation - One question they asked was why since Chinese & foreigners laugh & cry alike is their language different? Had to go back to the tower of Babel!
Thurs. we had no school - teachers worked on papers. I reviewed some on that unfinished Korean work - hope to get that off soon! Fri. we graded & discussed the sentences on the one which one could get 100 - I got 85. One one at 240 I got 192. Not perfect but those who'd been in China 10 yrs etc also took same test! I'm prepared for the worst Tues. We don't go back till then & then have classes Sat. they're getting us classified & a schedule made out. Surely when they're thru with us they'll know at least what we don't know & begin there. I hope!
It's been great fun anyway - I've enjoyed it. Sat. a.m. I reviewed some more myself & read some more on Chinese Foreign

11] relations. I get almost ashamed to be a foreigner at times. The way they've treated China - makes me just boil inside. It's easy to see how China was good soil for Bolshe-vism because while all the other countries were grabbing territory Soviet Russia repudiated all the Monarchy's treaties + of course appeared China's best friend - Her sly motive underneath of course not apparent!

My, how we long for a real settlement of this war. The table boy just this last week had word that their home in Kelowfu had been robbed "clean" he said of everything. The Chinese suffer untold misery with no redress!! We surely long for a speedy peace but Li Hsien sheng (teacher) said maybe 10 years?. Who knows?

Friday a lovely big box of holly sent from Woodburn, S.S. from Clark's tree. I'd never seen so many berries on holly! It was beautiful. Have my mantel all decorated with it + a table wreath. It's drying now very fast in a warm room. It was no little work to get that + pack it + mail it. Mrs. Mochel wrote the card + address so expect it was she!

Well the fire is getting low - + the family in the other room have gone off to bed. Expect I shall have to follow pretty soon. We've gotten our report of our committee together

Received $279.50 - isn't that great

cloth.
cotton
~~thread~~ 219.45 = 214 garments
+ 1 big bedcover
[given to a blind
old lady]

specially
investigated
families 44.

It surely has been wonderful. We still have 13.60. One dear old beggar lady said she'd prayed to Jesus three weeks + she'd had food every day! It has been blessed to see the Chinese teachers working at it so faithfully + well!

Kitty dearest ones, I love you so + long for you - but I am so grateful too, to the Master that He has considered me to send here + ah to get nearer these people + to be useable for Him! God keep you all + bless -

Loads of love - Goodnite

Irene -

10 Kuan Hai Road
Tsingtao, Shantung
Sun. January 15, 1928

My Precious Dear ones!

My what nice letters this week!! The nice fat one from you mummie mine & also Ray's good letter! It was so nice to get them! Mummie dear yours & Ray's came on the same mail. You were worried about yours being late but needlessly for it caught the same boat evidently. Please don't worry dear if its the last of the week I know you write when you can & don't worry if letters are late for I know its boats delay. That was a pile-up of 3 at once! Letters seem to be a never ending writing line. Many I haven't yet thanked for Christmas gifts. I must too - I didn't know ~~that~~ Isabel & Marie wrote you & Mrs. Tucker too. That was sweet of them! & nice of you to send them cards.

Bless you mummie mine my salary is enuf for my needs. See I don't have clothes to buy & am very well supplied as you know with the necessities of life & my salary covers my living. That's all I ask. The very idea of your helping me! I

thank you for the love + all but I surely do not need to take any of your money - honey mine!

How glad I was to get another letter + to know you were all well + the quarantine soon to be lifted. I do praise the Master for keeping you all safely!

I had forgotten that Father ever owned a share in the marble mine in Wallowa -

Mother mine! I'm simply aghast at the sum of duty you paid on that silk. If I read your figures right it was $14.45 gold! That's almost twice its cost! That is outrageous! absolutely!! I looked twice once I thought you'd written 4.45 + 1 was in dollar mark but I guess now. 4.45 would be enuf but 14. I've heard of the way they revalue goods inspite of one's declaration but that is preposterous for I declared it actual cost! Wonder, I'm glad if you enjoy the dress + if the color is right. I thought you'd look pretty in the color + enjoy the silk - but sorry you had to buy it! That 85¢ on the amber was all right - I mean not bad. was Eula's duty 1.50 on her brass things you didn't say this

3) letter but I think that's what you said before. Well that 5 Bill will cover it won't it? Bessie had no duty on these things - as Emmett's was in Eulas box! Isnt that right! I do want to pay their duty - All the parcels I got this year came duty free. Some have had to pay 5 & a dollar & once or twice The P.O. revalued them but I did not. All I have gotten have been free. Mrs. M. sent a big box of chocolates from Meier & Frank. Mrs. W. Stockings nice wool ones - Marie's box of assorted articles - Books from Marguerite was free. You asked which I prefer checks or gifts - I really have no preference - This year checks are best as I didn't need very much in clothes or articles - maybe another year I'll need things I can't get here but we'll let that settle itself! Bless your hearts it is so sweet of you all to remember me & I appreciate every bit & the sacrifice made for me! The lists of your gifts for various ones is so nice I am sure all will appreciate them. I'm so glad for the ring for Warren. I got a brown silk cord to wear my bit of amber on - for 8 & Max - had decided I couldnt

4] afford a gold chain - & I like this very much & it matches my dress so I'm fixed! Did you have a Christmas tree for the boys?
I'm so amused at their righteous wrath at being called in kindergaten not school! I see now how it is but it tickles me so! Bless their hearts!
Mon. we had no school as teachers were busy working out our exams But Tues we went all primed for the worst. They regrouped all of us in four groups - the 甲 (chia) those highest included those been in china long time then next 乙 (ī) some of us 1½ folks, some 2 yr. & one 4 yr. [I'm in it] then (bing) 丙 & ding 丁
There was one class in which Mr. J. put me with the (chias) but I'm not going to stay. They know too much for me & it isn't wise. I can manage to understand almost all but it isn't a good class for me too advanced - I tried it this week but I'm going back in my old bunch! My schedule will be a.m. acts, reading, 1.5th Reader. This is a text used by Chinese children in higher Primary schools, 3. The next

5) After recess is conversation class which we have to memorize conversations. Then character writing besides, which have to work I guess. It is most interesting - I just love it really! Have my old teacher again + I'm so delighted! The one I had to teach me before vacation for two months. He is so fine + so truly Christian! I'm surely glad to have him again tho I didn't ask for him as he is considered fine + I'd not want to be piggish!

Today is "Little Chinese New Year" as I came home from church I heard fire crackers all over + still hear them at intervals. Wien San said it was in shops especially food shops, sacrificing - worshipping false gods - a week from today is their New Year. You might be interested in our further committee work. We're going to use our surplus money now to give out grain to these poor refugees on new year day. Many will have nothing. We have 13.60 - that will give about 2 chins (3 lbs) to about 100 folks. I'll tell you more about this later

4) I got one of my hang-over Korean exams off Sat. I've been reviewing these days of no school. Will have three days to give teacher New Year day + I'll try to get "John" off then. The days work keeps me too busy to review ordinarily so I'm glad to get these off. Mr. L. didn't say any grades for what I took but it was passing I guess.
I haven't seen Mr. Davies but I feel that my answer is to be this: I did not ask for the Yilsien appt. I was willing to go where sent. They may ask for me + if the comm. in light of circumstances wish to appoint me here I will be willing as I was at first to go where they say. But I will not let it go as my request for transfer because I do not know circumstances enuf to judge nor do I wish the Yilsien folks to think I do not want to go there. That seems to have been the answer that came from my prayers + I'm content. It is a matter my decision wouldn't settle if I were capable of de-

7] ciding because the Comm. & China Council must do it! I'll see Mr. Davies this week & tell him, I feel it is the only way to let it be decided.

Yesterday P.M. 2-3 Miss Sue my little Chinese friend came - from 4-6 I helped Mrs. Chalfant serve at an "At Home" for Mary Vanderbilt & Margaret Smith whom we knew in Peking last year. They went thru to Shanghai to a nurses meeting. It was so nice to see them. Mrs. Douglas poured & I served. It was fun - we got to see all who came & serve as well!

Then at 7:30 Miss McCurdy & Mrs. Van Dyck had their delayed Christmas dinner in form of a Chinese feast for Margaret Smith (she's to be at their station Hwaiyuen) My! such a feast!!! We had such lovely food!! first time I'd eaten the famous shark fins. Luscious!!! Shark fin feasts are considered "very specially fine" & are so good.

Mr. Conradt of the Pres. mission here preached today & he gave such a very helpful message! It was a

8) call to deeper spiritual life & a re-evaluating of our representing Christ here as his ambassadors! There were many new folks there today. The population varies here more or less - folks are here now for N. Year as almost all schools are now closed for 1 mo. & it is China's vacation time. Good for schools saves fuel for this cold month of the year!

~~Dearest~~ ones, I'll close for tonight I must get to bed early - This week will be full & strenuous. I'll tell you nity-nite now ~~dearest~~ ones - and committ you to our Father's care & love. My fire is about out so I'll crawl in bed. Roy I'll answer your letter later, - just let me test your mind - you'll get no photographs!!

nite - nite

Tues a.m. Haven't gotten more written - so I'll mail this anyway! Dear ones I love you all so & pray this day may be very blessed for you & others thru you! How sweet it is to love you - I love you so much & you don't seem miles away either. Our Master is so precious & good to us - it is a joy just to walk with Him! Love - In

Better take this dose in relays!

Sunday Jan 29, '28
Same place

My dearest Loved Ones:

I do seem to be such a nut! Here another [There] longer than a week has passed but since letters pile up so it maybe it will come as soon anyway. This is such a cold day. The coldest we've had! The winter has been really quite mild compared to Peking and tho we've had cold spells this is coldest water froze in my room overnight wash cloth froze. We wanted to go out to Hsi Ling - a long way off to Chinese church so put on extra clothes & was very comfy. Mother I wore a pair of those heavy wool stockings over my others & my galoshes for first time this year. By walking we could keep warm & the gospel hall was heated. We're very comfy inside & this little snap won't last very long. I'm not going out to foreign service today - I want to write to you dear ones first.

2) These days have been so very full I scarcely know where to begin to tell you all. I'll begin at first of Jan. One day after we'd begun studying Mrs. Liu the Bible woman came to suggest that we use our balance of our relief fund to give the Chinese poor on Chinese New Year time – a time most important of all the year. Well we announced it at school & then various students gave some. One day two men came in to school & at noon, we were playing volley ball, Mr. Tewksbury called me up! I was feeling crazy so went up with a nutty, sassy air being called to principal's office. Here to my surprise were these two men – a foreigner & a Chinese nicely dressed in foreign clothes – needless to say I had to drop my silly air & be dignified! It was funny! Well they wanted to inquire about the committee's work – whom we'd helped & how etc. Then Mr Hsieh the Chinese said he'd a Chinese friend who wished to give some money & he'd go back to tell him. That was exciting but imagine at noon Mr Tewks called me again & said here

2] are $180.00 which this sick man sent!
I fairly fell in the chair! We called
the rest of comm! to rejoice together -
but we were aghast almost. Here
again it was exceeding above
all we could ask or think. However
much joy this $180. gave the facts
which later came out were of
far greater interest and importance.
Mr. Li, my teacher, went to see
him & Mr. Walter & I went to
call on Mrs. Hsieh the friend of
Mr + Mrs. Nie who gave the money.
This is the story & see the leading
& working of the Master in it all!
This Mr. Nie & Mr. + Mrs. Hsieh are
all returned students from
America (studied engineering)
Mr. Nie was told the gospel story
in Harbin by a friend. forgot it
& came here. He became sick.
read Buddhist books but one night
& while in hospital, thought again
of the story & the friend. The next
a.m. came a tract from this
same friend. His disease was
improving & he felt he must
thank some one — not knowing
God, he knew not whom to thank!

4] But decided to give money thru
Mr. Hsieh & Mr. Smith of Y.M.C.A. he
knew of our committee & seemingly
satisfied with Mr. Hsieh's report
sent us the money. Mr. Li. went to
see him & he stated Mr. Li he was
not a Christian but was willing
to believe - interested etc. Just
see the wonderful opportunity
The Dr. said Mr. Niu simply had
too much money & too little works,
This Mr. & Mrs. Hsieh too are very
interesting. They are returned students
rich, but without Christ, come
back to own land where they feel very keenly
their position, She has no children
& servants & of course society,
offered by port city, has its
temptations. She does so need
the Master. She's very frank &
outspoken. She is very sorry about
the poor & really seemed eager to
help someway. She at first didn't
committ herself about the stand
she takes toward church but
later admitted to Mrs. W. that
they were living like heathen.
This has opened up a new avenue

5] for contacts; my what a power these two families could be". Well, Mrs. Hsieh asked for a foreign minister to come to see Mr. Niu when he returns from hospital but he hasn't yet; she also wanted to tell him some of Mr. Niu's background first so that interviews hasn't come yet; Mrs. Hsieh said he asked her if he should be baptized very soon and study later or if he were to die before baptism would he be lost. He said, "I couldn't answer his questions". There is a blessed opportunity & such a joy & responsibility to be linked up with such a marked leading of the Master!

Well, with this new burst of funds our committee which we thought had met for the last time met again & Wed Eve. to plan giving the food. One of teachers printed tickets for it -- just 600 & the Chinese gave them to their formerly

of investigated families. How they have worked these Chinese helpers!! It's been so precious! We bought all together 2000 chin of grain + gave each ticket 3 chin. a chin is 1 1/3 lb. partly rice + millet, cost $156.00
Well I wish you had been there to see it all! It was a rather dreary day. A number of students + one teacher met here to go out together. The crowd gathered early. Mr. Rev. Wang preached first + they were unusually attentive + quiet. They later filed in one by one past the sacks where students + teachers dipped grain, others gave a tract as they left. others outside preached. It seemed at first we had too many folks to help but all were needed. It was a joy to see Miss Wood of the comm. (ie 13 yrs) out with one bunch preaching at another corner was Miss Reed singing choruses to paddies + back they sang. Rev. Wei was so fiery preaching to little groups.
He surely was plain!! said because of sin they were so pitiful!!
Mr. Hsieh went to quiet given

it out, She had attempted at an evening party of rich folks to collect money & clothes for us (her own idea) but she said many wouldn't give her clothes as they feared if poor child died its spirit would come to get the child whose clothes it wore! wealthy friends so this superstition isn't confined to the poor! Well she was there & had brought some clothes & $3 we found some real pitiful old ragged woman, no trousers but rags. & took her out to see & know where her money went. She was amazed she'd never seen such conditions! As we went in from giving one lady a dollar to get clothes she said, here I paid 26.00 for my purse & didn't know I was extravagant!! She surely saw plenty that day! We found one woman with a new born baby, born night before - but here she was. She'd no ticket & not a stitch of baby clothes. We gave what we had & filled her

of sack with grain! How she was cut!! & she climbed stairs & seemed most spry! That baby was so tiny!! My part was no definite spot I flew here & there seeing what I could & getting Mrs. Lim to help decide what to do etc.

Once as I was errand-bound a bunch of kiddies just finishing singing all surrounded me shouting "you sing"! There was no escape so I had to sing till Nita & Hallie came to sing & I could leave to do my errand! The sequel to this is yesterday as we were coming home on a street quite far away but in that vicinity here as if from nowhere came a bunch of kiddies & shouted "Ni K'ang" you sing you sing! So no way out but stop in the big street & sing & they weren't going to let us go - We soon had a big crowd! Oh! to have been able to talk & preach. It was funny to be so accosted on the street but I prefer that to rocks!! which might have been used!

9) after the 600 were all given to - there was some extra grain + surely 100 or more folks received who had no ticket. - However outside still were those who had none. -- -- This last sentence seems to me to be very true, How we've felt it all along!! always those uncared for!! It was a blessed privilege tho to help as we could + that is all we can do! Sat. A.M. Miss Lin came + we went downtown to see the New Year market. Monday was New Year - + all stores would be closed for a week or strict observance 15 days. - so the streets were a busy scene - like our days before Christmas + people all buying, great display of paper door gods, temples, shop scrolls etc, When I got home there was a note asking me to play for the choir at Chinese Church next Sunday morning. So it was a full happy day. Sunday I went to

10] Miss Ling's (a teacher in Pres. girl's school) to meet those who were to sing. Met a Mrs. Ling + Miss Chang - very delightful people + played for them.
We had vacation Mon-Thursday so we were free to attend some gospel meetings held for these poor folks at the gospel hall. That was Sunday. Monday was new year + Sun night firecrackers were fired all night + many on Monday. That day Chinese call on friends. Mrs. Liu said she was coming but didn't - they are so busy in their own homes receiving guests, etc. I worked on a committee report which will also be printed + I'll send later. Also studied John to prepare for an exam I've not had (last summer's work) Reviewed 4 chapters + read 5 new ones but haven't had exam as yet.
Wed proved quite interesting! After "Life of John" I went to the Castle Inn to take those painted post cards on which teacher had

"I written verses to Mrs. Thompson to take out to the meeting. Well I was greeted with "I hear you've been asked to Tsingtao station". The secret evidently out! I then talked it over with [Dr. Os]. Mr. Eames is on the executive Comm. I told him no [one] had known my feelings before I could get back from Castle Inn - Miss Stewart was here telling them about it - Well so we then talked it over. He said Tsingtao their station was considering asking for me - He felt none would approve a permanent transfer any place now & he'd only favor a temporary."

Well, then at night Mr. Davies came to see him about it & decided to ask for a temporary with the understanding that if I couldn't go to Yihsien the Tsingtao station have first right to a permanent assignment. I rather imagine it is more or less settled of course the committee hasn't met but if I can't go to Yihsien it would seem the logical solution. I told Hallie & Anita last nite

(2) they've both been out with Miss Chao whom I'd go with & they said they felt "literally green with envy at the chance"!! Just what all this will mean I don't know but I presume it means I'll be here another year - in the country then. Well, this must be the Master's plan. It wasn't my own seeking surely!

Thursday Mr. Eames went back to Liningkuo so we're alone again only Anita Irwin & Adelia Halleck of (Nanchuchow) have taken the two downstairs rooms. It is so nice to have them here! They moved Friday.

Mr. Li my teacher has been ill so I've worked by myself these P.M.s. I hope he'll soon be well! Not for myself but for his sake I'm sorry he's ill.

The meetings this week have been so interesting. Miss Chao from Nanking Bible School has been in charge. She is the sister of the

13) friend here who is on the committee.
This friend came on Friday + we
practised the chorus "Into my Heart"
which Mr. Wang translated last
summer. I played on guitar for her + she
sang it for the meeting + taught
these poor women the words. It
was so interesting. This Bible teacher
is quite well known over China
+ she is so splendid! She was in
the Nanking Incident. The soldiers
came 14 times in the one day, taking a
few things each time till all had been
taken + they burned one old dormi-
tory. Finally forced all to the street
in all a students, teachers 80 folks. She
said they'd absolutely no place to
go but just prayed as they went.
They divided in small groups for
safety + she said all found
refuge in various homes. She said
others say we met grief + trouble
but we say that we met God's
great grace + very conscious presence.
She says all are more enthusiastic
than ever before + have been
preaching wherever they went!
She told of various teachers +
where they've been,
in China [illegible] enthusiasm. The impression
is so oppressive, the [illegible] impression
at least literally. It surely does

14) sterile it - + how cold we do get + how matter of fact! It surely
^was^
is true now as in days of early Church that God is bringing blessing out of these persecutions. We did so enjoy hearing her preach to these poor folks. How simply but clearly + so picturesquely did she talk to them. Then next day Sun. we heard her preach to Christians + she was wonderful - Spoke on Christ's Resurrection ministry!

Here it is Monday nite. The day's been so full. School this a.m. Mr. Li still ill. We were invited to a Chinese feast by the Bible woman. Bless her heart, she hasn't any more than the law allows to live on. I know she could afford it - Some of food some friends made + gave her, others she made + other dishes she bought. It meant a sacrifice too. I felt badly about her doing it but slid rather than not. I learned the real Chinese way of cracking dried watermelon seeds + squash seeds in the teeth + eating them. It was such a nice feast. - Then after it I had to study. at 7.30 a prayer group

15) met here & at 6:30 guests came for dinner & now 9:30 they've just gone and my letter unfinished.

Sun P.M. I had an interesting caller. This Miss Liu the friend is engaged to a Mr. Faw (my name) & she asked him to come to see me. It was very interesting - my first inner glimpse in a Chinese romance. He wanted me to encourage her to study & use her time well etc. He is very bright & seems to be a fine man. It is interesting they call their fiancées, wives. My teacher spoke of Miss Liu as his wife. Tho the final engagement is made, He spoke with such an air of authority. He was nice but almost plainly he has his own idea about what he expects & he's willing to pay for her education etc!! He was here 2 hrs.

I will have to go to bed! I do want to answer your two letters & Ruey's in this - My how the time goes & is so full. I'll try tho to get it off tomorrow - so goodnite precious ones & the Master keep you as you are now getting up -

Love to all,

14

Wed. nite.

Now the morrows preparation is done - maybe I can finish this letter. Thank you Mummie dearest for playing Santa + mailing all the packages for me! The paper from Cecil hasn't ever come yet.

Whee! The December 27 letter was a fat one! To think of the twins being able to write such fine letters. They are perfectly adorable. It was a such interest to compare them + try to see if the boys write the same. They are great letters and just precious I'll file them with my valuables! Bless their hearts. Youre welcome to the turtles boys. I wish too that I could see you. I hope you still enjoy school. Love - Aunt Irene

Mummie, thanks for the Hutchins twins! I am so glad you like the chest + find it fills a need. I rather expected you'd want the partition out - but didn't have it done. I surely am glad you enjoy it! It was so nice to hear all about your Christmas. The traveling bag will be lovely! That's great. Get it packed for China some day. Say Julia said in her last letter she'd come this summer to China if she could find a

17 traveling companion + asked about you whether you'd like to come. Things are pretty uncertain in a way. She might want to do more traveling than you. I could only take her to Peking. Its all pretty unsettled yet to think of it. I expect tho wouldn't it be fun! I don't dare think of it. I'm so glad the girls wrote you + you had such nice Christmas feeds from the minister's dainties!

Mumsie dear, I already wrote the Board to subscribe for the Moody Monthly with Eula's check. It is so sweet of you to want to send them on - I'd love to think of them as coming on from father - but you've done too much now. Suppose you get the Times but not King's Business + for the Monthly if you'd rather just keep that amount and will say it is Eula's check + I'll tell you later if I want something. I want some music but maybe I could get it cheaper in Shanghai - if so I'll tell you + you can send it as a check, but for present don't. I don't love Literary Digest you might substitute it for King's business

18] I don't really have much time to read but I ought to keep up with current doings a bit.
That will be very fine Thank you so much.
Dear Eula: Such a good letter. I'm still waiting for the picture of the family hasn't come yet - Thank you so much! The suits part of Ladd's - There is an expression here calling garments gorgeous in such a way - Loot! so they boys have L.L.'S Ladd Loot suits! I can hardly wait for them! Ray, I can't read all the present characters quite so those old seal ones would stump me!! - maybe by time I'm here 50 years I can! Glad you liked them! If the folks want to write I love to hear but the letter problem is a vital one sure! If they'll be patient or maybe not expect individual answers I still wish to hear. Ray your epistle is here - I'll start later just now I'm too sleeping!
Loads of love to all!
Isn't the Master good to me to give me "you all"

Sun. Eve.
February 13, 1928

My Own Dearest Ones:

Now for a visit with my precious family! The days have flown by again but I think it won't make much difference as the boats pile up letters - however I do not intend to adopt this as a custom in spite of my having done it several times this fall. If I don't get the letter off on Sun. I just don't get it off. This week has been an unusually strenuous one and days have been so full!! There seems to be more & more school work, and then we've had special meetings at church which has made me up till 10:30 or 11 each nite so in all I've been unable to get all in, I do want to write a lot of letters but they must wait a while.

Our report of the committee is still not printed I spent a lot of time writing, copying etc. for we thought it all done - Well last Sun a man gave a check for $125.00 - nearly gasped but am getting almost used to

2) stacks now - We wondered what next step the Master had. Yes. a letter came from a famine region at Tenghsien telling of numbers of Christian families on the verge of starvation & could we help - Then a call came from Tehowfu (neighbor to Yihsien tho that has no relation) that there they are digging up the planted wheat to eat so serious is the famine situation. Our committee met & decided that we'd already helped much here & that it is easier for the poor to beg here than in these small places & so we'd divide - yesterday came two more checks - making $100. more, & more is still to come so on we go - we'll get the money off this week to them. It is a special joy to keep these Christian families alive, & scriptural - however we haven't limited our help to help as you know from our work before! It surely has been a wonderful experience

3] and such a joy to just be lead of Him. I think I wrote that Anita Irwin, + Adelia Hallock have moved here to this house + its so nice to have them. They are such fine girls + I enjoy them very much. That makes 2 more to our family. Hallie will go home on furlough this summer + her folks will meet her in Europe. Won't that be nice? They'd been hearing mice in their room but I never had + felt very safe. — But last week I had a mighty escapade! I was wakened by it in some paper — but that didn't really bother me but soon it went across the floor + up in my bed + across my hair at the head — Well, I gave one leap + got the light on — after thorough bed examination I knew it wasn't in it still but found it on the floor. It was so funny. It struck me as such a serious thing + I was determined to kill it tho I hadn't nerve to hit it, but I was banging away with a paper

¶ Mrs E. was feeding the baby & heard this awful thud (my leap) & bumps & had no idea what it was. She wondered & figured & finally put baby down & armed herself with the poker to meet whomever it was. I heard her door open & went out not the least sign of surprise at seeing her so armed (she said later as we've laughed over it I acted as if I expected her to come & she was so alarmed about what was up) & said, "come help me kill this mouse" I got her coal shovel & she said determination was written all over me even to ends of my hair, I got the mouse by two vicious blows - calmly put it in her stove & mechanically went to bed without even thanking her! We've laughed ourselves sick over the crazy incident. She looked so funny coming out & I was taking her for granted & she so amazed but nary a whiff of humor did we see till next A.M. We just did is so matter-of-factly & went back. It took lots of nerve for me & I was saying to myself a nice missionary you'd make in Africa!!

5], My beloved teacher is still sick. He came on Monday for my private lesson but we just talked. I tried to cheer him up. He's been having a lingering bronchitis & cough for weeks & where they lived it was too noisy. There is a room over a garage out here in our yard which he wanted to move to but who could care for him & he needed bed care? We thought of one of the families of poor we'd helped — one especially he'd been interested in & who had this 11 yr. old boy we'd set up in a little business. We decided to get him — it also would be a splendid chance to have Mr Li carefully teach him about Christ as he'd only had a little teaching. Next was how to find him. A girl who is helping them always sees them on Sat but Mr. Li wanted to move at once. We prayed that the Father would help us — Mr. Li moved Tues. Eve & Wed a.m. Mosely met the mother & by 2 P.M. he was here, Wasn't that great!! He can prepare the food & do

the necessary things for him. He's a nice lad! so clean looking & with a clear cut face. He's so willing to help. He comes to tell me how Mr. Li is & bows most deeply before & after talking. Today one of the servants here took him to church! for the first time I expect. He was so glad to go and said he'd listen carefully. I believe he believes as much as he knows – and it may be this sickness was allowed just to bring this boy to the saviour. We must just trust for his soul. He'd make a good servant I believe if someone could train him & teach him. Will hope we can find more paying work for him.

Mr. Flacks, a well-known Hebrew Christian, evangelist has been here this week & is perfectly great. I've heard him at Moody. He was a student there after his conversion. He's had services Thurs. p.m. Friday & Sat. nites – all day today. The most remarkable manifestation of the grace of the Master overruling his prejudices & pride & working in His family.

7] Then P.M. on "The Romance of the Incarnation". How he brings in the Hebrew background to illuminate all! He is wonderfully used of God + is staunch. If you could get him for Roseburg it would be fine. He goes anyplace never asks for money or offering. He's been around Portland + Seattle alot he told me. The Chinese missionary society opening up works in tribes of Yunnan have asked him to go along for a few weeks). I think he's partly out to prove that Bolshevism wasn't instigated by Jews as a race organization but I haven't heard him mention that - he is a great Bible teacher. Has been preaching to Jews in Russia a year or over! He told us last night a most remarkable incident - After conversion he went to his home to testify to his family. First his very close sister plead with him then cursed him + in agitement fainted. Brought her to life + he later fainted + Dr. called in he worked over her an hr. + told Mr. Flacks

8) all the time he found no sign of life! Then all family cursed him for turning Christian & asked him to prove his love to them by killing them — well, in desperation he was trying to explain to them & he said Jesus is here & in life raised the dead. Then in Yiddish so they'd understand prayed to God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob & asked to comfort & witness to them to raise this sister. He said in a hr. She was with him riding on the elevated train back to her house. He told Moody experiences that surely ~~took~~ me right back there! His time here has been a great blessing to all!

Now I'll answer your letters Mummie, of Jan 9. I send Miss Clark's letter on. It was such a nice letter!
Does Emmett's salary go on tho he's not out on the road?, Glad they sold the water power place if it will help them pay for their place. I do hope they make it allright!

My clothes are holding out well. had to discard one dark slip but had the one made of that

9] old cape-lining is an O.K. The underwear needs mending but the little sewing woman keeps me well darned ups. Mrs. E. gave me a pair of knit bloomers for Christmas. They help. No, I don't need anything at all! All are doing nicely + I have all I need + plenty! My! that was steep for your coat! Am glad you have a coat! I can hardly think of your wearing black. Am so glad you like your dress + it is so pretty. The man at the store was aghast at the duty you'd to pay. There that made it cost you $25. - I'm so sorry but guess it can't be helped! Suppose you get a sway at it + the new hat - + the seat at coat!

I know, mumsie precious, you are a big help to Eula + you can be glad as you say. I'm glad too you are so happy there my precious honey. I love you so + wish I could help a bit!! You're so brave + fine + all! "Mumsie sometimes it does hurt so but the Master is so precious + good to us + His grace is sufficient!

10/ I'll let the letter rest awhile til I see about a transfer + where + maybe as you suggest for a few months move it. I will later say. Tell Eula my tea is mostly name not tea! I like it weak! am Still hunting my favorite kind I can't find it!

Mummie precious, will that birthday amber be enuf or would you also like the ring. I have an idea for the ring I think you'll like but I'll not tell you now - I'll see what I can do! Bernie sent the amber Mrs Eaves had ordered so yours must be on the way. I must write her. Please pray on about the Chinese home. I do so want to + so far nothing definite - but cant go for a mo. anyway!!

Thank you dearest ones, I don't want anything now. You're so sweet to me. I must get to bed early now. We've a final exam in Acts tomorrow + I must get up early. Next week is so full! It is so precious to be here - I love it so - May I be used to represent Him is my prayer + for you there also - All my heart's love - to all.

Love - Irene.